REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to correct some minor informalities of which the undersigned has become aware. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 4 whereby the pair of distance measuring sensor arrays receive an object light flux from a central area of footage. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby an exposure control section performs an exposure control at the time of shooting by using brightness information of the central area of the footage output based the image signal of the pair of distance measuring sensor arrays, and brightness information of the peripheral area of the footage detected by the pair of photometric sensors, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 7, lines 13-18, page 9, lines 1-5, and page 12, lines 12-22.

In addition, claim 5 has been amended to recite a sensor unit for to a camera, as shown in Fig. 1B. Claims 5, 7 and 8, moreover, have each been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the first and second distance measuring sensor arrays receive an object light flux from a central part of a footage, the first photometric sensor receives an object light flux from a first peripheral part of the footage, and the second photometric sensor receives an object light flux from a second peripheral part of the footage different from the first peripheral part of the footage, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 7, lines 13-18.

Still further, claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10 and 11 have been amended to better accord with amended independent claims 1, 5 and 8 and/or to make minor grammatical improvements and to correct minor antecedent basis problems so as to place the claims in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10 and 11 be approved and entered.

RE: CLAIM 12

The Examiner objected to the specification and drawings as not describing or showing the subject matter of claim 11. In this connection, it is respectfully pointed out that the "third processing circuit" pointed to by the Examiner was actually recited in claim 12, which has been canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objections to the specification and drawings be withdrawn.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 4,791,446 ("Ishida et al"); and claims 8-12 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,151,732 ("Akashi et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, a camera is provided which comprises, in particular, a pair of distance measuring sensor arrays which receive an object light flux from a central area of footage through the light-receiving lens, and an exposure control section which performs an exposure control at the time of shooting by using brightness information of the central area of the footage output based the image signal of the pair of distance measuring sensor arrays, and brightness information of the peripheral area of the footage detected by 1 pair of photometric sensors.

Similarly, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 5, 7 and 8, first and second distance measuring sensor arrays receive an object light flux from a central part of a footage, a first photometric sensor receives an object light flux from a first peripheral part of the footage through the first light-receiving lens; and a second photometric sensor receives an object light flux from a second peripheral part of the footage different from the first peripheral part of the footage.

By contrast, as recognized by the Examiner, Ishida et al discloses a pair of monitor light receivers MP11 and MP12 provided next to distance measuring sensors I1 and I2. In Ishida et al, spot brightness is detected by using the integration time and gain of the CCD data or by compressing the photocurrent from the monitor light receivers (see column 19, lines 20-26). And it is respectfully submitted that since the monitor light receives of Ishida et al are used to control the storage time of the CCD, the photometric area of the monitor light receivers should be substantially the same as the distance measuring are of the distance measuring sensors. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Ishida et al does not disclose, teach or suggest that the photometric sensors receive an object flux only from the periphery of the footage, in the manner of the present invention as recited in claims 1, 5, 7 and 8. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Ishida et al does not at all suggest that the photometric sensors receive an object flux only from particular parts of the periphery of the footage, in the manner of the present invention as recited in claims 5, 7 and 8. Still further, it is respectfully submitted that Ishida et al only teaches using brightness readings from the monitor light receives to perform photometry, and does not disclose, teach or suggest performing exposure control using brightness information of the central area of the footage output based the image signal of the pair of distance measuring sensor arrays, and brightness information of the peripheral area of the footage, as according to the claimed present invention.

With respect to independent claim 5, moreover, it is respectfully submitted that Ishida et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 5 whereby a sensor unit for a camera is provided which comprises: first and second light-receiving lenses; first and second distance measuring sensor arrays which are formed on a single semiconductor chip and which receive an object light flux from a central part of a footage through the first and second light-receiving lenses; a first photometric sensor which is adjacent to the first distance measuring sensor array on the semiconductor chip and which receives an object light flux from a first peripheral part of the footage through the first light-receiving lens; and a second photometric sensor which is adjacent to the second distance measuring sensor array on the semiconductor chip and which receives an object light flux from a second peripheral part of the footage different from the first peripheral part of the footage through the second light-receiving lens.

Yet still further, it is respectfully submitted that Akashi et al also does not disclose, teach or suggest the above described features of the claimed present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in each of independent claims 1, 5, 7 and 8, as well as claims 2, 4, 6 and 9-11 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguish over Ishida et al and Akashi et al, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Holtz
Reg. No. 33,902

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.
767 Third Avenue - 25th Floor
New York, New York 10017-2023
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900
Fax No. (212) 319-5101

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